

head football coach at Winnfield High School. Pyles's three grandchildren, Tyler, Dustin, and Kayla, were his pride and joy. Reverend Pyles was very much a family man who lived an honorable life, striving to lead by example and be the best he could be, personally and professionally.

Reverend Pyles's passion in life was serving God and people. He lived this passion every day through his work, while serving as a pastor of 10 different Methodist churches, on the board of the United Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, at the General Secretary of the United Christian Ashram, on the Executive Committee for the World Methodist Council, as Ruston District Supervisor, and in his daily life as a husband, parent, and grandparent, among many other posts he has occupied. He gave freely and generously of himself and his time, and the world is truly a better place for his efforts.

In the letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to Timothy, (2 Timothy 2:8–13), Paul says "If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him." As we remember Reverend Pyles, there can be no doubt that he lived and died in his faith. Reverend Pyles's life is an example to all of us.

To say that he left his fingerprint on the world would be an understatement. Reverend Pyles brought peace, joy, and spiritual life to so many, and he will live in our hearts forever.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
(U.S. ARMY-RET) LEE F. KICHEN)

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army-Ret) Lee F. Kichen of Sarasota, Florida. Colonel Kichen is a great American who recently retired after decades of service to his country and his fellow veterans.

Colonel Kichen most recently served as a state service officer with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in St. Petersburg. He was also the VFW's state legislative chairman. Successive VFW Commanders in Chief also appointed Lee to the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, National By-Laws and Resolutions Committee, Veterans Services Resolution Committee and the National Legislative Committee. In these positions, he has been a tireless and effective advocate for our Veterans.

As a state service officer for the VFW and in a previous position as a veterans service officer for Sarasota County, Lee has helped countless veterans and their families obtain from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, such as disability compensation, pensions, health care, and vocational and rehabilitation training.

I had the privilege of working with Lee in his capacity as VFW legislative chairman on several issues, including the establishment of a national cemetery in Sarasota to ensure area veterans are laid to rest with the respect and dignity they deserve and passage of the Post 9/11 GI bill to provide service men and women who have served in active duty since Sep-

tember 11, 2001 with additional education benefits similar to those provided in the G.I. bill.

Lee is a native of Framingham, Massachusetts.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Master of Arts degrees from Pacific Lutheran University and Chapman University.

In addition to his civilian education, Lee is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

He retired from the United States Army in 1997 after twenty-seven years of service as an Armor officer. He served in various command and staff positions in the Continental United States and overseas.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, with one oak leaf cluster; the Meritorious Service Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Achievement Medal and the Korea Defense Service Medal. He also wears the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, the Bronze Medallion of the Order of St. George, and the Silver Medallion of the Order of St. George.

He is a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Children's Home, the Military Officers Association of America and the Military Order of the World Wars.

He is also a member of the Jewish War Veterans, the AMVETS, the American Legion, the Association of the United States Army, the Armor Association, the United States Cavalry Association, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Lee is on the Board of Directors of the 3rd Cavalry Association. He served as President of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission from 1999–2002. He is the Vice Chairman of the Sarasota National Cemetery Advisory Committee. He also serves on Senator George Lemieux's and Congressman VERN BUCHANAN's Service Academy Selection Boards.

He was recognized by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3233 as its Man of the Year, Elks Lodge #2495 as its Citizen of the Year, the Bradenton-Sarasota Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars with the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Service and by the Sarasota County Veterans Commission as its Veteran of the Year.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 13th District, I thank Lee for his dedicated service to our nation and wish him and his wife Carol a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT GRAHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor to Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham for his dedication and commitment to his country.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, New York in 1981. On February 23, 1982 he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina. After graduating Recruit Training, Private First Class Graham transferred to the U.S. Army Transportation School in Fort Eustis, VA for training in his occupational field.

In September 1982 after he was transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp S.D. Butler, Okinawa Japan, Graham was promoted to Lance Corporal and subsequently meritoriously promoted to Corporal. On December 1, 1985 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant after being transferred to Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia. In 1996 he was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. On May 1, 2001 he was promoted to Master Sergeant and was ultimately promoted to Master Gunnery Sergeant in February of 2006.

His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unity Commendation Ribbon 2nd Award, Navy Meritorious Unity Commendation Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal 8th Award, National Defense Service Medal 2nd Award, South West Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon 6th Award, Navy Marine Corps Overseas Ribbon, Drill Instructor Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) and the Iraq campaign medal.

On December 16, 2011 Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham retired from the Marine Corps after thirty years of Active Service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham for his outstanding service to our country.

MARGOT ZALLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Margot Zallen for her outstanding service to our community.

Upon receiving her J.D. from the DU College of Law, Margot began working as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI), representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Margot rose through the ranks for 33 years until her retirement last year as a senior attorney.

While representing the FWS, Margot worked on many controversial and significant cases passionately protecting wildlife, endangered species and their habitats in Colorado and across the nation. Margot has been tasked with many leadership roles within Colorado such as the creation of the Lookout Mountain Water District, the Jefferson County Open Space Program, and in 1972 helped found Plan Jefferco.

Margot also facilitated the acquisition, settlement and protection of North Table Mountain and was a founding member of the Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE). CARE works to protect the foothills and its mountain backdrops of Jefferson County.